

## **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

Office of Services to the Aging  
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy., Room 2-D, Lansing

July 18, 2008

### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Kennedy, on behalf of all the Commission, welcomed new Commissioner Kathleen Johnston-Calati, from Lansing in Ingham County. Commissioner Johnston-Calati gave a brief profile of herself and stated she was looking forward to being a part of the Commission.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Thomas Rau, Anne Talab

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

#### **OSA STAFF PRESENT**

Sharon Gire, Cindy Albrecht, Lindsay Bacon, Bonnie Graham, Pam Hall, Sherri King, Lynne McCollum, Cheri Mollison, Holliace Spencer, Sally Steiner, and Scott Wamsley

#### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Lisa Molnar

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Bollinger made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Bollinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

## **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire welcomed Commissioner Johnston-Calati to the Commission and stated she is looking forward to working with her.

Director Gire updated the Commission on the following:

- Grants – current and new grant opportunities
- No move date for OSA has been set, but will keep the Commission informed
- Attended the National Association of State Units on Aging Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Working with Department of Community Health to help General Motors (GM) retirees; who will lose their health care benefits, with transition services in the form of how to apply for Medigap insurance, Medicare Part-D, etc. Director Gire asked the Commission to assist by giving out the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) number 1-800-803-7174 to help these or other individual.
- There is still time to apply for a federal stimulus payment
- Handed out Digital TV Transition information stating that on February 17, 2009, all roof antennas and rabbit ears will lose their TV signals and no picture or sound will be received. A converter box will be needed unless you have cable or satellite TV.

Discussion followed with Commissioners Walters and Bieber on the General Motors retiree's health care and where they can also go for assistance. Commissioner Verma discussed what effect the gas prices are having on meals-on-wheels and other programs. Sherri King, OSA staff, stated that the area agencies on aging are looking into different options such as the MI-Deal Program, where agencies will receive state rates for gas and food. They are looking into routing software for drivers as well. Commissioner Verma discussed what the Commission can do to assist seniors with lowering the cost of hearing aids.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Proposed Substantive Amendment to FY 2008 Area Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Region III-A Area Agency on Aging (AAA)**

Holliace Spencer, OSA staff, requested approval of the Substantive Amendment to FY 2008 AIP for Region III-A AAA, stating that this request is to amend Appendix G to include an additional transfer of \$15,000 from Title III Part C-1 into Title III Part B for in-home services. Mr. Spencer noted that a transfer of \$15,000 for participant transportation was previously approved as part of the original FY 2008 AIP.

Mr. Spencer stated that the Region III-A request is a result of undeserving the home delivered meals this year and to assist individuals needing in-home services, which have waiting lists. Mr. Spencer stated that this transfer is intended for only this year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Proposed Substantive Amendment to FY 2008 AIP for Region III-A AAA as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A discussion followed with Commissioner Walters verifying that just \$30,000 was being transferred. Mr. Spencer confirmed the amount. Further discussion followed regarding how OSA is working with the AAAs on improving how they do business.

#### **Approval of FY 2009 Sub-Grantee Allocations for Evidence-Based Prevention Programs**

Sherri King, OSA staff, introduced Lindsay Bacon, student from University of Michigan. Ms. King requested approval of the sub-grantee allocations for implementation of the “Empowering Older People to Take More Control of Their Health Through Evidence-Based prevention programs” grant. Ms. King noted that these allocations are for year two (June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009) of the three-year renewable grant from the Administration on Aging (AoA) and includes year one carry over.

Ms. King stated that four area agencies on aging (AAA) participate as partners in the implementation of the “Empowering Older People to Take More Control of Their Health Through Evidence-Based Prevention Programs” grant. These AAAs include the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, Region 2 AAA, Valley AAA, and Region IX AAA Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the FY 2009 Sub-Grantee Allocations for Evidence-Based Prevention Programs as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walters. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### **Approval to Allocate Funding to Region VII Area Agency on aging for Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market Nutrition Education Program**

Sherri King, OSA Staff, stated that in conjunction with Senior Project FRESH, the Farmers Market Nutrition Education program will target seniors in Saginaw County, to educate them about the importance of a diet high in fruits and vegetables, and demonstrate tasty and healthy ways to prepare them. Funding will be used for the purchase of food, nutrition education materials, and hiring of a person to do the cooking demonstrations. Ms. King noted that the Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market will complete a budget form, work plan, and evaluation for Region VII and OSA. They will also comply with Region VII’s rules and regulations and submit the required documentation.

Ms. King requested the approval to allocate \$650 to Region VII to support the Downtown Saginaw Farmers Market Nutrition Education program. Ms. King also noted that funds will be expended no later than September 15, 2008.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the allocation of funds to Region VII for the Farmers Market Nutrition Education program as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commission approved with a 12-0-1 vote with Commissioner Pawelski abstaining.

A brief discussion followed.

### **Approval of FY 2009 State Plan for Services to the Aging Amendments**

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the FY 2009 Amendments to FY 2008-2010 State Plan for Services to Michigan's Older Adults. Ms. Graham noted the draft plan was posted on the OSA website for public review and comment on July 1, 2008, with no comments received. Ms. Graham highlighted additions and changes to the State Plan, and if approved, the FY 09 Amendments will be forwarded to the Administration on Aging for review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the FY 2009 State Plan for Services to the Aging Amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

#### **Update of Elder Rights Summit and Legal Hotline Grant**

Lynne McCollum, OSA staff, updated the Commission on the legal hotline grant and the Elder Rights Summit that was held in May 2008. Ms. McCollum thanked the Commission for their support and involvement in the Elder Rights Summit noting it was a success.

Discussion followed with a request that they have another Elder Rights Summit.

#### **Promising Approaches to Promoting Lifelong Community Mobility**

A presentation by Lisa Molnar, Ph.D., University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, in the area of traffic safety and driver behavior. Dr. Molnar did an overview of the work that is being done at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute with primary focus on the development of a guide called "Promising Approaches for Promoting Lifelong Community Mobility".

#### **Other**

Commissioner Walters noted the Sanilac County Senior Fair was held with 2,000 attendees.

Commissioner Wilson read an article in the July-August AARP Bulletin about a package of bills in Michigan that would prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of frail older Michiganders.

Chairperson Kennedy noted that a bill recently passed for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commission will be conducting a strategic planning session following lunch.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 15, 2008, at the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, Room 2-D, Lansing. Please plan on attending the full day. The Commission will be considering approval of the FY 2009 Area Agencies on Aging AIPs and grant allocations.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be on August 14, 2008 via conference call.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Verma and seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at noon.